GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:731
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
IMMERSION OF STATUES
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the statues are being immersed in various rivers and other pollutants are also being dumped into them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) During various festive occasions, idols and statues are immersed in water bodies such as rivers, ponds, lakes, coastal waters etc. Besides idol immersion, disposal of left over worship material like flowers, plastic items, ashes, small idols and food items are also immersed.

(c) To minimize the pollution due to immersion of idols, guidelines have been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) suggesting water quality monitoring at three stages, namely, pre-immersion, during immersion and post immersion, identification of adequate number of designated immersion centers, construction of temporary confined ponds/bunds, removal of worship material like flowers, clothes and decorating items for proper disposal and organizing awareness programmes.